

SECRET

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NEA:IAI:MSPENDLETON
03/17/83 EXT. 23672
D:THE DEPUTY SECRETARY

NEA:NAVELIOTES
S/S-0

S/S:CHILL

IMMEDIATE TEL AVIV

BEIRUT IMMEDIATE, JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE

NODIS

E.O. 12065: DECL:0ADR

TAGS: PREL, US, IS, LE

SUBJECT: LEBANON NEGOTIATIONS: ISRAELI CHARGE'S
MEETING WITH THE DEPUTY SECRETARY, MARCH 17, TO PROVIDE
PRELIMINARY RESPONSE TO THE U.S. NON-PAPER

REF: TEL AVIV 3764

1. SECRET {ENTIRE TEXT}.

2. SUMMARY: WHEN ISRAELI CHARGE NETANYAHU CAME IN AT 6:00 P.M. MARCH 17 TO PROVIDE THE DEPUTY SECRETARY WITH THE TEXT OF ISRAEL'S PRELIMINARY RESPONSE TO THE U.S. NON-PAPER, HE STRESSED THE "CENTRAL IMPORTANCE" OF HADDAD REMAINING TO SERVE AS COMMANDER OF HIS BRIGADE. THE DEPUTY SECRETARY MADE CLEAR THAT THIS POINT IN PARTICULAR WOULD BE A NONSTARTER FOR THE LEBANESE AND THAT ISRAELI INSISTENCE WOULD JEOPARDIZE SYRIAN WITHDRAWAL. THE NON-PAPER ADDS UP TO A CONCEPT OF THE SECURITY ZONE AS A PLACE WHERE ISRAELI FORCES WOULD BE IN SOLE CONTROL AND LEBANESE SOVEREIGNTY DENIGRATED, HE SAID. THE CENTRAL ISRAELI CONCEPT CREATES PROBLEMS. THE DEPUTY SECRETARY AND AMBASSADOR HABIB STRESSED THAT WE ARE DEALING WITH A PACKAGE OF PROPOSALS ON SECURITY, AND THIS PACKAGE WILL HAVE TO BE REVIEWED IN ITS TOTALITY.

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NETANYAHU ARGUED THAT ISRAEL HAS GONE TO ITS MINIMAL POSITION IN LEBANON WITH ITS PROPOSALS AND WAS MINIMIZING ITS PRESENCE IN THAT COUNTRY. WHEN ASKED IF POINTS NOT COVERED IN THE ISRAELI NON-PAPER WERE ACCEPTABLE, NETANYAHU SAID HE DID NOT KNOW. THE DEPUTY SECRETARY PROMISED THAT WE WOULD RESPOND IN SPECIFIC TERMS ON MARCH 18. END SUMMARY

3. NETANYAHU BEGAN BY GIVING THE DEPUTY SECRETARY A LETTER FROM ISRAELI FOREIGN MINISTER SHAMIR TO THE SECRETARY EXPRESSING GRATITUDE AND THANKS FOR THE "WONDERFUL EFFORT" THE SECRETARY HAD PUT INTO THE MEETINGS IN WASHINGTON THAT HAD TAKEN PLACE EARLIER IN THE WEEK. NETANYAHU SAID THAT THIS EFFORT WAS TRULY APPRECIATED. HE THEN TURNED TO THE ISRAELI NON-PAPER RESPONDING TO THE U.S. NON-PAPER, COMMENTING THAT THE ISRAELI PAPER REPRESENTED PRELIMINARY COMMENTS WHICH HAD NOT BEEN PUT TO THE CABINET. THEREFORE, HE STRESSED, THE ISRAELI NON-PAPER CANNOT BE SEEN AS REPRESENTING BINDING POSITIONS. NETANYAHU SAID THAT HIS GOVERNMENT WOULD LIKE TO HAVE COMMENTS FROM THE U.S. PRIOR TO THE SUNDAY CABINET MEETING IN JERUSALEM.

4. NETANYAHU EMPHASIZED THAT THE ISSUE OF HADDAD IS OF CENTRAL IMPORTANCE TO ISRAEL. HADDAD SHOULD SERVE AS THE COMMANDER OF HIS BRIGADE, AND THAT UNIT SHOULD REMAIN INTACT. WHILE ALL OTHER ISSUES ARE IMPORTANT, HE SAID, THIS ONE IS OF CENTRAL IMPORTANCE TO ISRAEL.

5. THE DEPUTY SECRETARY SAID HE APPRECIATED THE PROMPT ISRAELI RESPONSE AND PROMISED THAT THE U.S. SIDE WOULD LOOK WITH GREAT CARE AT THE ISRAELI NON-PAPER. HOWEVER, THERE WAS LITTLE TIME. WE WOULD TRY TO THE EXTENT WE COULD TO CONSULT WITH THE SALEM DELEGATION, BUT ONLY ONE OR TWO WERE LEFT, AND THEY WOULD BE LEAVING WASHINGTON THE SAME EVENING. WITH REGARD TO HADDAD, DAM SAID HE MUST FRANKLY STRESS THAT THE LEBANESE ARE OF THE VIEW THAT THIS POINT IS A NONSTARTER, AND, EVEN IF THE LEBANESE WERE TO AGREE, WE DO NOT BELIEVE WE WOULD BE ABLE TO GET THE SYRIANS OUT WHILE HADDAD REMAINS IN CHARGE. IT SEEMED TO HIM THAT HAVING A CONCEPT OF A SECURITY ZONE IN WHICH FORCES OF THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT WOULD BE IN SOLE CONTROL WOULD BE A DENIGRATION OF LEBANESE SOVEREIGNTY, UNLESS THERE WAS OUTSIDE PARTICIPATION THAT WOULD ASSURE APPROPRIATE LIMITS.

6. THE DEPUTY SECRETARY ARGUED THAT THERE WILL NOT BE ISRAELI SECURITY UNLESS THE SYRIANS LEAVE. HE URGED THAT EVEN IN ADVANCE OF OUR FULL RESPONSE, ISRAEL RECONSIDER

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THIS POINT WITH CARE. DAM SAID THAT IT WAS DIFFICULT TO SEE HOW THE NON-PAPER REPRESENTED ANY PROGRESS THAT WOULD ASSURE SECURITY FOR ISRAEL. SINCE THERE WAS SO MUCH EMPHASIS ON THE CONCEPT OF HADDAD, HIS AUTHORITY, AND HIS FORCES, DAM FOUND IT DIFFICULT TO KNOW HOW TO REACT IN DETAIL WHEN THE CENTRAL CONCEPT BEFORE US CREATES SUCH A PROBLEM.

7. AMBASSADOR HABIB SAID IT WAS IMPORTANT TO NOTE THAT WE ARE DEALING WITH A PACKAGE OF PROPOSALS WHICH FOCUSES ON SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS. IT IS PREFERABLE TO DISCUSS THE PACKAGE IN ITS TOTALITY, AND DAM AGREED THAT WE ARE TALKING ABOUT A PACKAGE IN WHICH EACH ELEMENT DEPENDS ON THE ENTIRE CONCEPT. NETANYAHU ALSO AGREED THAT ONE HAS TO LOOK AT THE OVERALL CONCEPT. THE ISRAELI STARTING POINT IS THE THE LEBANESE ARE NOT YET ABLE TO DO THE JOB OF SECURING THE SOUTH. AS A RESULT, ISRAEL HAS TO REINFORCE LEBANESE CAPABILITY. ISRAEL HAS MINIMIZED ITS PRESENCE AND CREATED A MINIMAL POSITION FOR COOPERATION WITH THE LEBANESE. AFTER A BRIEF DISCUSSION OF SEVERAL SPECIFIC ELEMENTS IN THE ISRAELI NON-PAPER, HABIB ASKED IF THE POINTS IN THE U.S. NON-PAPER WHICH WERE NOT COVERED IN THE ISRAELI RESPONSE ARE ACCEPTABLE TO ISRAEL. NETANYAHU SAID THAT HE DID NOT KNOW.

8. DAM STRESSED THAT WHILE THE U.S. WOULD HAVE A RESPONSE FOR THE ISRAELIS ON MARCH 18, NETANYAHU SHOULD NOT WAIT FOR THIS RESPONSE BEFORE REPORTING TO HIS GOVERNMENT OUR VIEWS AND UNDERLYING PERCEPTIONS ON THE HADDAD QUESTION. HABIB SAID THAT WE HAD TALKED WITH THE LEBANESE AT GREAT LENGTH ABOUT THIS ISSUE DURING THE SALEM VISIT. WE WOULD BE RESPONDING TO SPECIFICS THE FOLLOWING DAY. IN THE MEANTIME, WE WOULD BE TALKING FURTHER WITH THE LEBANESE.

9. ALSO PRESENT WERE NEA ASSISTANT SECRETARY VELIOTES, D EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT WALKER, NEA/IAI DIRECTOR PENDLETON, ISRAELI POLITICAL COUNSELOR SABEL AND ACTING ISRAELI DEFENSE ATTACHE SHILLO.

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